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SEVENTY THOUSAND DIE IN ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

Disaster of Yesterday Proves to be a Horrible Visitation, With Greater Loss of Life Than Has Come In Many Hundred Years. Shock Followed By Tidal Wave and Fire.

Rome, Italy, Dec. 29.—South Italy and the island of Italy have been visited by an appalling calamity, the extent of which cannot yet be grasped. The earthquake yesterday wrecked city after city and obliterated smaller towns and villages without number. The tidal wave swept along the Straits of Messina and added to the horror of the earthquake that of drowning the people in their helplessness and panic. Then fire came to complete the work of destruction and countless numbers of wounded men and women and children were burned to death.

Loss of Life 60,000 to 70,000. An adequate estimate of the total casualties as yet is impossible but the Tribuna places the number between 60,000 and 70,000. For horror and destructiveness this visitation will probably exceed that of any earthquake in Italy since 1783 when 40,000 perished at Messina alone. Reports of heavy losses of life are coming in every hour from city and villages stricken with disaster and the story in detail has only begun to be told as the horror of the reports comes in.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The disaster in the province of Calabria and the island of Sicily today assumed staggering proportions. Each successive report from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the first stories of the wide-spread destruction were little, if any, exaggerated. Messina alone reports 12,000 victims but it is feared that this is only a partial list of the dead and wounded. Reports coming from other towns are giving their estimation of the dead therein from 500 up to several thousands. Reggio still remains in isolation.

It is impossible to get word from the stricken city and this silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehension. News comes from Messina, eight miles north of Reggio but no reliable estimate is given of the dead there. Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out and the government has adopted the most severe measures. Robbers and looters are shot on sight. The prison at Messina collapsed and some ten prisoners were killed but the survivors escaped and joined the "hooligans" who are sacking the city.

Such confusion reigns that robbers met with no resistance. The chief of the local police lies dead in the ruins of his office. The barracks at Messina were demolished. The commander of the troops was killed outright and many of the victims were enlisted men. The government last night sent General Fierra de Cossato with an army corps, to take full command of the troops in the devastated territory. One of the first moves will be to declare martial law.

The robbers pillaged the ruins of the shattered buildings and even stole clothing and valuables from the bodies of the victims. They were not deterred by flames that broke out in several sections of the city, but took advantage of the light for their vandalism.

The night in Messina was one of horror indescribable; fire, robbery, the dead and dying on every side. The city was in the utmost confusion and the people were panic stricken and under a spell of terror. Troops began to arrive in Messina last night and this morning a number of steamers arrived from the peninsula with soldiers. The patriots at once organized and efforts were made to bring some order to the situation. Bands of citizens were formed who helped in the work of rescue and many courageous acts were performed by soldiers and citizens alike, and in some cases the rescuers themselves lost their lives in trying to help others.

Towards morning the worst fires were extinguished and the looting was under partial control, and comparative order was restored. Everything possible is being done to succor the wounded, but the relief measures are still utterly inadequate owing to the immensity of the disaster.

The finest churches, palaces and theatres of Messina are heaps of ruins. Countless bodies are lying in the wreckage and their decomposition will doubtless bring pestilence to add to the horror of the situation.

The devastation of the entire district is more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio or Calabria escaped. The disturbance was most severe along the shores of the Strait of Messina, where the cities of Messina and Reggio are situated. In more than one town the shock caused the gas meters to explode, and disastrous fires resulted. The flames helped greatly to swell the death lists.

The configuration of the Straits of Messina has been greatly altered. The tidal wave that completed the destruction of the earthquake was thirty-two feet high. The wireless telegraph has been of the greatest assistance in getting reports from the devastated regions, and is helping the authorities to realize the extent of the disaster, and to send help to the places where it is most needed.

The flying squadron of the Italian navy, composed of the three best battleships, which had left for a cruise before the disaster, was reached by wireless and ordered to Messina. The British squadron at Syracuse also left for Messina, as did several Russian ships at Syracuse.

The dome of the cathedral at Catania collapsed and other churches, as well as the city hall threaten to fall at any moment.

At Pigneto, the tidal wave was 35

feet high.

Religious Communities Wiped Out. London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Rome says the Pope has been notified that the entire religious communities at Messina and Reggio, including the Bishops, priests, monks and nuns, have been wiped out by earthquake and fire.

The King and Queen to the Scene. Rome, Dec. 29.—Queen Helena refused to allow her husband, the King, to go alone to the scene of the disaster. She said she would share her husband's danger and consequently both left Rome this afternoon for the South. It is announced here the Pope will inaugurate the establishment of an international committee of Roman Catholics the world over, to assist the survivors of the catastrophe. The Pope heads the list with \$200,000 and it is understood the King will give \$2,000,000 for the relief of the sufferers.

The Tribuna today estimates the total casualties at between sixty and seventy thousand.

Reports just received from other towns in Calabria, from Cassano and Cosenza. Cassano is said to have 1,000 dead while the wounded number 500. At Cosenza 500 dead have been taken from the ruins. Cassano has six thousand population, while Cosenza is the center of a community with a population of 21,000.

The Minister of Marine at five o'clock received a wireless estimating the number of dead at Messina at fifty thousand. No news has been received from Reggio.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Refugees from Messina say there were one hundred foreigners in the Hotel Trinacria and that they all lost their lives. The hotel was completely obliterated. It was one of the best in the city and was patronized almost exclusively by tourists.

Railroad communication with Messina has been restored. A train load of refugees came here this morning, but they are all maddened with the terror of it and none are capable of giving a connected account of the catastrophe. All agree that Messina is destroyed and that the victims are counted by the tens of thousands.

The Triancoria Hotel, with ninety guests was demolished, the city hall, the Bourse, telegraph offices and barracks were also destroyed. The tidal wave, thirty feet high, swept up the streets of the city in the height of the confusion. Hundreds of half dressed men, women and children were caught in the onrush of the waters and drowned or injured. The refugees declare the country around Messina is destroyed and that several villages have disappeared. Reggio is described as nothing but one vast sepulcher.

Catania, Dec. 29.—The following graphic story told by a woman who arrived here from Messina this morning, badly wounded internally, is the only story that will describe the fearful scene. She said that when the first shock came, most of the city was asleep. They were awakened by the rocking of the houses. The windows swayed and rattled and crockery and glass crashed to the floors. "I was half stunned but knew the only thing to do was to make my way out side. The streets were filled. Everybody rushed out in their night clothing, heedless of the rain, which was falling in torrents. Terrific shrieks were heard on every side and we heard frantic appeals from the unfortunates planned beneath the ruins of the buildings. Walls were tottering all around us and not one of our party expected to escape alive. My brothers and sisters were with me. In a frenzy we groped our way through the streets, holding our own against the panic stricken people, climbing over piles of ruins until we reached a place of comparative safety. But this was not done before I was knocked down and badly injured by a piece of furniture that fell from an upper story of a house. Along the road we were joined by scores of fleeing people, half clad like ourselves. The houses seemed to be crashing to the ground in all directions, and then suddenly the sea began to pour into the town and this meant an end to everything. Eventually we reached the principal square of Messina and found two thousand people, utterly terrified, as they saw the big buildings on the square collapse. It seemed to me that scores of persons were buried beneath the ruins, then I lost consciousness and remember nothing more."

Rome, Italy, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Palermo, Sicily, says the dead at Messina as the result of the earthquake and tidal wave yesterday, are estimated at twelve thousand. Scores are still alive beneath the ruins of the city, but owing to the inadequacy of the means of rescue at hand, it is impossible to reach these unfortunates in time to bring them out alive.

Other reports received here place the dead at Messina at even a more appalling figure. The Rome Tribunal publishes a telegram saying the casualties will reach the total of seventy-five thousand persons. This report has not been substantiated.

Premier Giolitti has received a telegram confirming the previous reports of the complete destruction of Messina by fire following the earthquake. The dispatch says the dead in Messina can be numbered by the tens of thousands.

The King Will Aid. Naples, Dec. 29.—King Victor Emmanuel will proceed to Calabria and Sicily and do all in his power to further the work of rescue. It is reported here that the Perfect of Reggio was killed in the earthquake and an Inspector General from the Home Office has been sent to replace him. The Perfect is the head of the province and corresponds to a governor in the United States.

Only a Few Thousand Escaped. London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Canhor says that only a few thousand of the entire population of Reggio have escaped injury or death. Lieutenant General Fierra di Cossato has ordered that all looters and robbers be shot on sight. Martial law has been instituted since the earthquake. The population of Reggio was placed at fifty thousand. The city is south of Messina.

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America Will Send Aid.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The American Red Cross Society today sent out telegraphic requests to all its branches, for relief funds to be applied in aid of the sufferers in the earthquake in Southern Italy.

Towns Are Wiped Out.

Monteleone, Calabria, Dec. 29.—The town of Palmi has been practically destroyed, as has been Bagnarra. The dead at Palmi number 1,000 and it is impossible to estimate the number injured. Large numbers were killed at Bagnarra and the list of injured there is heavy. Details are lacking. A tidal wave inundated the Villa of San Giovanni, 2500 feet back from the shore line. Palmi had 10,000 inhabitants and Bagnarra also 10,000.

Mount Aetna in Eruption.

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Mount Etna this morning is showing considerable activity and the detonations, which can be plainly heard in this city, together with the great volume of smoke flowing out of the crater, have added to the panic of the people. According to the director of the local observatory, the activity is directly connected with the earthquakes of yesterday, which wrought such havoc in Calabria and Sicily, but a great eruption is not expected as such phenomena seldom accompany violent seismic disturbances.

America to Send Help.

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt, through the State Department, today sent King Victor Emmanuel, of Italy, a dispatch expressing his horror and that of the American people over the disaster which has befallen southern Italy and Sicily by the earthquake and tendering the sincere sympathy of the American people. The President also notes that the American National Red Cross has issued an appeal for contributions to aid the sufferers and that organization has notified him that it will immediately communicate with the Italian Red Cross.

The State Department is without advices from its diplomatic or consular officers in Italy regarding the disaster at Messina. The results of the earthquake are appalling. The department has received from both Consul A. S. Cheney and Deputy Consul Joseph H. Pierce, private cablegram after cablegram confirming the frightful extent of the catastrophe. The Italian embassy attaches freely express their grief. When Signor Roberto C. Antaro, secretary of the embassy read the dispatch in which the Tribuna estimated the dead at 75,000, he seized his head in his hands and exclaimed: "My God, how terrible, can it be true."

The delay in the receipt of official news at the Italian embassy is taken to mean that the officials in Rome are giving all their attention to sending aid to the stricken region.

Warships Go to Messina.

Malta, Dec. 29.—The British battleship Ramoth and two cruisers left

here today for Messina to render assistance to the survivors.

France Sends Help.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The Minister of Marine has ordered two French battle ships and three torpedo boat destroyers to proceed to Messina to succor the victims.

Concert Tonight.

Miss Eva Nelson, assisted by some of the best local musical talent, will give a concert this evening at the Christian church, under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society of the church.

We now have a large stock of Carbon for the "Ideal Irons." Roswell Hardware Co. 58tf.

NOTICE OF NUMBERS DRAWING PREMIUMS AT LUFF'S

First, 1008, the doll.

Second, 255, 3lb. box chocolates.

Third, 246, 3 lb. box chocolates.

The Fourth and Fifth premiums have been called for. Look up your tickets and see if you have any of the lucky numbers.

LUFF'S CANDY KITCHEN.

Boellner, the jeweler, has it cheaper

W. W. Gatewood left this morning for Canyon City on business connected with the Williams Brothers murder case.

If your subscription to the Ladies Home Journal or the Saturday Evening Post, has expired, now is the time to send in your renewals.

Hattie L. Cohean, agent.

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CHARITY BALL TO BE

BIG EVENT OF SEASON.

From the general interest that is being taken and shown in the pur-

chase of tickets and making of arrangements, the Charity Ball tomorrow night will be one of the big social events of the season. The skating rink is being put in the best of condition. The hard maple floor is being scrubbed and polished and good music has been secured. The patronesses are a score of the prominent ladies of Roswell, either leaders in the Federated Charities or wives of Elks, and their management guarantees the nature of the party. While very few of the business men have refused to buy tickets, considering their price and the fact that the ball is being given for sweet charity, some will be unable to attend on account of the busy season. However, a large attendance is assured.

A. E. Macy was here from Dexter today.

ATTEND THE CONCERT TONIGHT AT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

W. H. Burnett came down from Elida last night to join his wife in a week's visit with relatives.

Situation Wanted.

Young man wants light outdoor work. Collecting preferred. Will collect on commission. Address J. J. C. The Record.

We now have a large stock of Carbon for the "Ideal Irons." Roswell Hardware Co. 58tf.

Miss Nelson's Concert tonight at the Christian church. Do not miss it.

D. Y. Tomlinson has returned from a month's stay at Dallas.

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U. S. WEATHER BUREAU.

(Local Report. Observation Taken at

6:00 a. m.)

Roswell, N. M., Dec. 29.—Tempera-

ture, Max. 57; Min. 19; Mean 38. Pre-

cipitation 0. Wind 2 miles W. Weather

clear.

Forecast for Roswell and Vicinity.

Fair tonight and Wednesday; stationary temperature.

Comparative Temperature Data.

Extremes this date last year:—Max

65; Min. 38.

Extremes this date 14 years' record:—Max. 73, 1898; Min 7, 1900.

Smoked Fish

Are quite appetizing and we offer for your choosing:

Smoked Salmon lb.....30c
Smoked Halibut lb.....30c
Smoked Herring lb.....30c
Smoked Bloaters, each.....5c
6 for 25c

Also

Milker Herring, keg \$1.25
Genuine Codfish, 1 lb. bricks
20c, 3 for 50c.
No. 1 Mackerel, each.....15c
2 for 25c
No. 1 Mackerel, kit, \$1.75
Pickled, spiced, Anchovies
full qt 50c

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